

The Baptist Record

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Faith of Chick-fil-A founder reflected in company

By Carey Kinsolving

ATLANTA (BP) — When the readers of *Business Atlanta* were asked to choose their city's most respected CEO, they bypassed high-profile executives such as Ted Turner and Coca-Cola Chief Executive Roberto Goizueta.

Instead, they selected a fast-food chicken magnate and Southern Baptist layman, Truett Cathy, a man who looks like everyone's grandpa and whose corporate goal doesn't fit the Fortune 500 prototype.

An engraved plaque containing his goal greets all visitors to Chick-fil-A's Atlanta headquarters: "To glorify God by being a faithful steward of all that is entrusted to us; and to have a positive influence on all who come in

contact with Chick-fil-A."

In 1964, Cathy hired Chick-fil-A's first employee. Today, its 365 restaurants rank No. 3 nationally in chicken fast-food sales.

Ideas come from God, Cathy says, but "they won't keep. They have to be acted upon." And act is what Cathy did when he experimented with pressure-cooking a boneless chicken breast and serving it as a sandwich.

Cathy's round face, gentle smile, and relaxed Southern accent depart from the stereotype of the harried executive. But his easy manner should not be mistaken for a lack of determination. Behind it lies a vigorous faith rooted in the belief that succeeding in the fast-food chicken business is God's mission

for his life.

Jesus said something that everyone knows, but few believe, Cathy says: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Cathy finds great joy in giving, "especially to those from whom you don't expect anything in return. The greatest gift of all is the promise of eternal life. If we are going to be the recipients of eternal life and God's blessings upon us, we have a duty to give."

For more than 30 years, Cathy has taught a Sunday School class of 13-year-old boys at First Church, Jonesboro, Ga. He tells the class that life boils down to the three Ms: Who will be your master? What will be your mission? Who will be your mate?

"If you foul up on any one of those, you will probably be miserable," Cathy said in an interview.

Cathy confesses to being more popular with his kids after Sunday School, when he sometimes invites them to go dirt-bike riding at his farm. On the road, Atlanta's most respected CEO may be seen aboard a Harley Davidson with young bikers, as well as a band of Baptist old-timers called the Holy Rollers.

But on Sunday, don't look for Cathy or his employees in a Chick-fil-A restaurant. They're closed. Harvard Business School probably wouldn't recommend Cathy's policy but he defends it by saying he attracts the kind of employees who want to attend church on Sunday and spend time with their families.

Cathy has heard all the arguments for staying open seven days a week, but a slight grin can be detected when he says his restaurants usually generate more sales in six days than others do in seven.

As a child, Cathy's elementary school teacher required students to submit a Bible passage for a verse of the week. Cathy chose Proverbs 22:1: "A good name is rather to be

chosen than great riches."

Cathy has managed to earn both.

Many of his employees think of themselves as being part of an extended family with Cathy serving as a caring patriarch. Les Brown, 27, started working for Chick-fil-A in high school, while living in Fredericksburg, Md. He attended college using Chick-fil-A scholarship money and continued working part time. Today he operates Cathy's restaurant in the Landmark Center mall in Alexandria, Va., and expects to earn about \$70,000 from sales in the neighborhood of \$800,000.

"I was raised in the company," Brown said.

And closing on Sunday? "I think it's great there's a company that will make that kind of human investment," he said. "I work about six days a week so I need the break."

Like his employer, Brown can be found in a Baptist church on Sunday morning.

Friends of employees constitute 85% of his staff, Brown said. "I haven't lost a person due to disagreement in the last year."

Kinsolving is a Washington-based free-lance writer.

Where there's a will: church finds way to baptize wheelchair-bound new Christian

By Tammi Ledbetter

HOBART, Ind. (BP) — When members from Sunnyside Baptist in Hobart, Ind., first visited Kenny Payne to share their faith and hope in Christ, he politely refused their attempts to interest him in attending church.

Though he had only recently developed multiple sclerosis, Payne was no longer able to work and expressed a great deal of frustration and anger over his disease. But that didn't stop the visits from church members or pastor Bill Gibbs.

After two years of deteriorating health, Payne was admitted to a hospital and doctors were not sure he would live much longer. Breathing had become difficult; his muscles lost their strength.

"During this time in the hospital, while I was visiting with Kenny, I began to talk to him about the things of Christ and his need to know him as personal Savior," Gibbs recalled. "Kenny committed his life to Christ there in the hospital room."

As he began regaining his strength, Payne shared with others about his commitment to Christ and said he was a Southern Baptist. With the transfer to another hospital and completion of physical therapy, he improved even more and eventually went to Crown Point nursing home. There he attended various worship services at the facility.

"I had forgotten about it," said Gibbs as he told of Payne calling

him at home to emphatically announce, "I want to join the church."

Gibbs explained baptism was a part of church membership and Payne replied, "I know. I read that in the book you gave me."

Aware of the complications that would result from Payne's confinement to a wheelchair, Gibbs assured Payne that if he was certain he wanted to be baptized, the church would make it possible. Payne immediately invited his family and one of his nurses.

"I was still wondering how we were going to accomplish the task of getting Kenny up the stairs and down into the baptismal," Gibbs said. That's when he decided such a move would be impossible and decided to work on an alternative.

A farm supply company in Valparaiso loaned a large watering trough which was set at floor level in the front of the sanctuary and several men were enlisted to help lift Payne into the water for the baptism.

"Kenny's adamant commitment to be baptized and the testimony of his baptism were an encouragement and a challenge to every one of us," Gibbs said. "There were very few dry eyes that morning and many choked up as we sang 'We are One in the Bond of Love' for our benediction."

"It was certainly the most unusual baptism service I have ever had part in and one of the most meaningful."

Ledbetter is managing editor of INDIANA BAPTIST.

Church realizes power of prayer as man is saved after eight-year vigil

WOODSTOCK, Vt. (BP) — No one had come forward. John Pate signaled an end to the invitation: "Just As I Am."

"I want to thank you for coming this morning," Pate said, wrapping up Woodstock Baptist Fellowship's morning worship in this Vermont village of 1,500. "We're here to meet your spiritual needs. If we can help, just let us know."

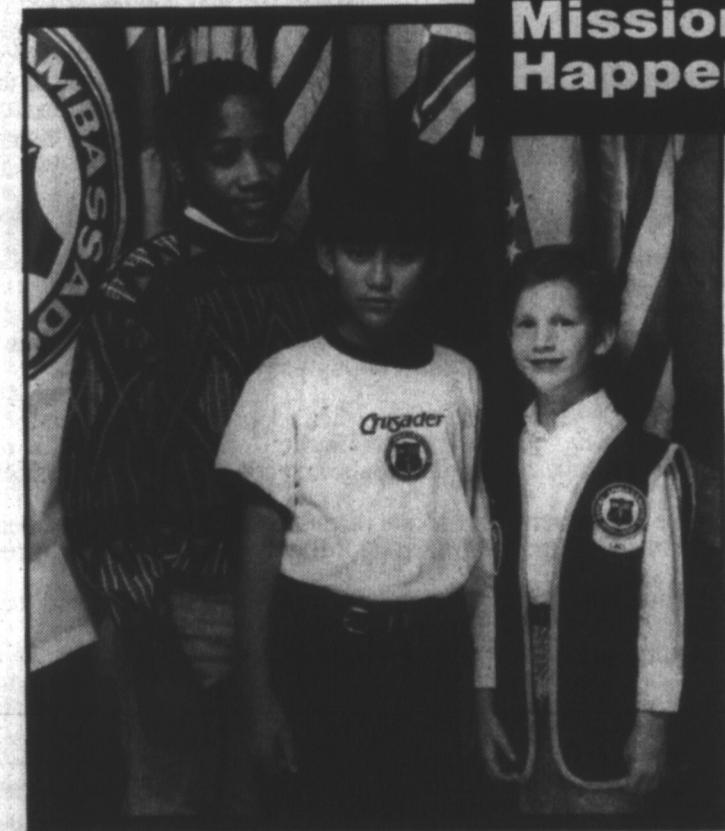
Suddenly, a man in the congregation did — jumping up, raising and waving his hands, walking forward, almost shouting, "Is there still time left? I want to accept Jesus into my heart!"

Many of the 50-plus worshippers

were stunned; then emotions and tears began to flow; they had been praying for him for, maybe, eight years.

Pate, pastor of the church the past year and a half, had hoped for some conversions Oct. 18 — but hadn't dreamed it would be the early-40s man who had been attending with his wife, a faithful Christian, for so many years without ever making a decision for Christ.

Several unsaved persons and their families had been attending the church several months, and Pate had them in mind as he prepared his sermon.



Making
Missions
Happen

Royal Ambassador Week

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



What are we about?

Ask this question to an auto dealer, a supermarket, or hardware store and you get a straight answer: "We sell cars — or food, or hardware." Ask the same question to a church or to a convention and what answer do we receive?

We are about the proclamation of the gospel. We are under a divine mandate to spread the good news of Christ to the entire world. Proclaiming the Word is the barometer of the church. When proclamation has been strong, the church has been strong.

Gaines Dobbins said it well: "Evangelism according to Christ is not an extra, an elective, or an occasional activity. It is Christianity at work producing the fruit of discipleship. It is not fighting sporadic battles but an unceasing warfare. Evangelism is never defensive; it has but one strategy — conquest." A divine strategy is laid upon us and "woe is me" if I do not proclaim the Word.

Christians in our nation and our state are seemingly becoming a minority group. As a rule Christians are ignored with greater ease

in economic and political realms. More than one author has declared the Trojan horse of humanism has been rolled inside our walls and the troublesome contents are seeping out. A woeful ignorance of the Bible has sent shadows of darkness creeping over the land.

Only the faithful proclamation of God's Word, with salvation through Christ being expounded, unfolded, and explained in the pulpit and the market place will alter the trend. It is not a program but a Person who makes the difference.

For every preacher in the pulpit we need a hundred lay persons proclaiming the Word outside the church. Evangelism is not to be a mere task to be done nor just a department in an organization, but rather something that is happening all the time when the church, in fellowship, is renewed and renewing. A loving, caring fellowship will do more to disciple people than all our programs and budgets. We must be about this work or be prepared to see our churches become something less than victorious.

Within the last month, I have heard a department director in the Baptist Building quietly tell the story of leading a person to Christ; of a lady in the Jackson area who baked a cake for a despondent couple and later returned to lead both of them to Jesus; of an unsaved person who told a store owner how mixed up he was about the political and social climate of our nation. The store owner said, "Let's read what God has to say about it." The unsaved became saved.

In the schools, Children's Villages, the work of the Convention Board, and through the ministry of 1,975 churches, from Biloxi to Byhalia, that's what we are about. John Wesley said, "You have nothing to do but save souls."

Our focus must be on the destination, not the transportation. It's the water, not the container, that is important. Ours is a voice in the wilderness proclaiming Christ, not the beauty of the wilderness. In our convention meetings, associational planning sessions, or in the local church business hour, let's recall what we are about.

GREATEST INVESTMENT ANYONE CAN MAKE
PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

"Yes, our natural lives will fade as grass does when it becomes all brown and dry. All our greatness is like a flower that droops and falls;

"But the Word of the Lord will last forever. And his message is the Good News that was preached to you."

— 1 Peter 1:24,25 (L)

PUT YOUR MONEY TO WORK!

The COOPERATIVE PROGRAM
— Reaching out to our world in love

Recommendation of Education Commission through the Convention Board to the Mississippi Baptist Convention relative to Clarke College/Mississippi College

Prior to 1980, Clarke College was experiencing severe financial problems and operating at a deficit. In 1980, Mississippi Baptists voted to merge Clarke College into Mississippi College. Mississippi College was to be the surviving college and was to administer Clarke College and receive its assets. Clarke College continued to experience consistent and severe operating deficits under Mississippi College's control. From time to time, Mississippi Baptists reimbursed Mississippi College for operating deficits incurred in operating Clarke College. Clarke College was threatened with the loss of accreditation. Mississippi College worked diligently to save the accreditation of Clarke College, even filing a lawsuit in Federal Court. However, in early 1992, Clarke College lost its accreditation and consequently federal loans and grants were no longer available to their students. Clarke College's operating deficits therefore increased dramatically. Faced with continuing severe operating deficits, Mississippi College closed Clarke College. Mississippi College now comes to Mississippi Baptists for instruction and direction as to the disposition of the Clarke College assets. It is recommended as follows:

1. Mississippi College herein returns to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board the buildings and property known as the Clarke College campus. Deeds will be executed accordingly.
2. The accumulated unreimbursed operating deficit for Clarke College is, according to KPMG Peat Marwick, approximately \$484,000. Additionally, Mississippi College has had considerable administrative and other costs associated with its efforts to maintain Clarke College as a viable institution not reflected in the operating deficit and not reimbursed. After negotiations, Mississippi College is willing to accept and the Education Commission is willing to propose to the Budget Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention that the Convention reimburse Mississippi College \$242,000 as the Convention's minimal share of this operating deficit. This may be done over a period of several years.
3. Mississippi College, as the successor to Clarke College, holds legal title to all endowment funds of Clarke College subject to the expressed intent of the donors for such endowment funds. Being mindful of the Baptist polity of maintaining separateness but cooperation between various Baptist bodies and understanding trustees are ultimately responsible, and yet responding to Mississippi College's request for instruction and direction, it is respectfully recommended that Mississippi College will receive all of the proceeds from the Clarke College endowment for the next six (6) years to offset the balance of the Clarke College operating deficit. Mississippi College will continue to be the legal owner of the Clarke endowment. However, after six (6) years it is respectfully requested that the trustees consider sharing all proceeds from the Clarke endowment (funds heretofore received or received in the future) with the other two Christian colleges of Mississippi Baptists, namely, Blue Mountain College and William Carey College, according to their ratio of distribution of undesignated funds in the Mississippi Mission to the extent that this can be done consistent with the wishes of the donors to the Clarke College endowment.
4. Mississippi College further accepts responsibility for any expenses or record keeping that will help Clarke alumni as an identifiable group and the records will be kept safe and available.
5. Further, it is understood that any proceeds from the further use of the Clarke campus will be equally divided among existing Mississippi Baptist colleges through the capital allocation budget item.
6. Mississippi College has pledged to preserve the strong heritage and unique contribution to the Kingdom of God that Clarke College has made through its commitment to missions and ministry as much as possible through any and all means.
7. The Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is respectfully requested to appoint a special committee to recommend the future use of the buildings and real property previously occupied as the Clarke College campus. It is recommended that written proposals be made to this special committee. Such uses considered should not be inconsistent with or hinder the missions, goals, and concerns of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.
8. After the implementation of the recommendations contained herein, Mississippi College shall have no additional or further obligation to Mississippi Baptists in regard to the operation of Clarke College and Mississippi Baptists shall have no further obligation or responsibility to Mississippi College relating to Mississippi College's operation of Clarke College.
9. A final audit of Clarke College will be permanently on file in the records of both Mississippi College and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.
10. We express our deepest respect and our highest regards for the contribution made by C.Z. Holland, W.E. Green, Lowery Compere, Lewis Nobles, the other presidents, staff, faculty, and students of Clarke College for the immeasurable contribution made to Mississippi Baptist life and the Kingdom of God around the world through Clarke College.

(To be signed by the chairman, Mississippi College trustees; chairman, Education Commission; president, Clarke Alumni Association; chairman, Executive Committee; and the president, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.)

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Editor Guy Henderson
Associate Editor William H. Perkins Jr.
Advertising/News writer Teresa Dickens
Editorial Associate Florence Larrimore
Circulation Manager Renee Walley
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Proofreader/Secretary Shannon Simpson
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Clarke, MC addressed in Educ. Commission action

By Tim Nicholas

The buildings and property of Clarke College are being returned to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, subject to approval of the board at its meeting Nov. 9.

Mississippi College trustees, operating Clarke College in Newton since a merger in 1980, closed the junior college this spring citing deficit financing, declining enrollment, and loss of accreditation.

A document, outlining the particulars of the return, was proposed by the Mississippi Baptist Education Commission with the signatures of Harry Vickery, Mississippi College trustee chairman; Ron Kirkland, Education Commission chairman; and Glenn Shows, Clarke alumni president. (The document is reproduced in its entirety on page 2.)

At a called meeting of the MBCB Executive Committee, the

document was approved by that group with only two minor changes: adding the name of the auditing company, and changing the assignment of the special committee to "recommend" rather than "determine" future use of the Clarke property. MC retains the ownership of the name "Clarke College," said Harry Vickery to the Executive Committee.

Calling events related to Clarke College "an agonizing experience for Mississippi Baptists for many, many years," Vickery noted that MC President Lewis Nobles "poured his heart out to try to maintain the name and integrity of Clarke College as it was intended."

The document returns all real estate and buildings at the Newton campus to the convention board asking the Executive Committee to

name a special committee to determine future use of the property. That could be sale or rental of the property.

The document divides an operating debt of \$484,000 between MC and the MBCB, with the MC portion coming from proceeds of Clarke endowment funds for the next six years. The document recommends that at that time the endowment, which is about \$778,000, be divided among the three Mississippi Baptist colleges: MC, William Carey College, and Blue Mountain College. Also divided among the three schools would be any proceeds from future use of the property. All of this is to be done consistent with the wishes of endowment donors. MC also accepts record keeping responsibilities concerning Clarke.

Billy Graham's Oct. Moscow crusade gleans thousands

MOSCOW, Oct. 26 — Evangelist Billy Graham experienced a "Miracle in Moscow" as he conducted an historic crusade which ended yesterday in Moscow's huge indoor Olympic Stadium during his two-week visit to the Russian capital.

Crowds averaging over 45,000 packed into the stadium, breaking the previous attendance record of 38,000 for the 1988 Goodwill Games. Thousands more were locked out of each meeting.

At the final meeting on Sunday, according to stadium officials, 50,000 people jammed the stadium, standing shoulder to shoulder around the arena floor and then up the aisles to the ceiling. The police estimated an additional 20,000 were unable to gain admittance and watched on a large screen outside, making this the largest crowd to hear the gospel at one time in the former Soviet Union.

An average of over 14,000 — more than one-quarter of the audiences — responded to Graham's

invitation to make a commitment to Christ, confirming an observation of one Moscow academic who said, "People are tired of history and want to personally experience the presence of God in their lives."

On their first night, 42,000 people crowded the stadium, spilling down from the seats and standing reverently in a large semi-circle formed by Russian members of the Moscow Salvation Army. Graham preached on the topic, "Why?" which had been the theme of a huge advertising campaign in the Russian capital.

On one night, a large contingent of Russian military, including Army, Navy, and Air Force — attended the meeting wearing their uniforms and many responded to Graham's invitation. The former Red Army Choir — now the Russian Army Choir — accompanied by their band, sang a selection of religious songs. They included a memorable English rendition of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" with its stirring affirmation

that "His truth goes marching on."

At the final crusade meeting, Joni Eareckson-Tada, a quadriplegic who was appointed to the National Council on Disability, also spoke from the platform. She thanked VOZROZHDENIYE (Renewal) '92 for making the gospel available to all people including those persons with disabilities.

When Graham gave the invitation for people to make a commitment to Christ, an average of over 27% of the densely-packed crowd made their way to the front of the platform. Unlike most Billy Graham crusades, no music was used at the time of the invitation. Still, the evangelist had to appeal to the inquirers surging forward to walk and not run. The only sound was the muffled beat of thousands of feet making their way to the front. At each service, Graham later noted he made a special effort to point out that it was hard to be a Christian and it was not a decision to be made lightly.

Cooperative Program begins year with increase

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for the first month of the new fiscal year were up 1.28% over the previous year's first month, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

October 1992 receipts, the first month of the 1992-93 fiscal year, were \$10,830,045 compared to October 1991 of \$10,693,592, or a 1.28% increase, according to Chapman.

However, the monthly basic operating budget requirement for the month is \$11,683,366, leaving

the October CP gifts about 7.9% below budget. The 1992-93 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget is \$140,200,395.

Designated gifts for the first month were up a whopping 41.99% over last year: \$2,100,758 for October 1992 compared to \$1,479,520 for October 1991.

BSSB retirement "window" chosen by 159 employees

By Charles Willis

NASHVILLE (BP) — More than 83% of the 191 Baptist Sunday School Board employees eligible for a special voluntary retirement window have elected to take the enhanced early retirement provision approved by the institution's trustees in August.

A total of 159 elected to retire between Sept. 1 and Nov. 1. The one-time provision, part of a restructuring for the 101-year-old church programs and publications agency, was offered during the summer to persons with a minimum age of 52 and whose age and tenure totaled at least 77.

In addition to the retirement of eight employees from middle- and upper-level management positions announced in June, six department directors are retiring. They are Max Caldwell, Sunday School youth-

adult department; Muriel Blackwell, Sunday School preschool-children's department; Tom Clark, Bibles and books; Ray Conner, church recreation; Joe Denney, video/audiovisuals; and Jerry Ross, art.

Retirees among Baptist Book Store managers include two regional managers, Robert Mendenhall, southeastern region, and Al Crawford, central/campus region.

Five store managers in the 63-store chain will retire. They are Ken Brannon of Greensboro, N.C.; Charles Clark of Nashville; Charles McGlocklin of Jackson, Miss.; Loren Miller of Knoxville, Tenn.; Jeanette Scott of Wake Forest, N.C.; and Fran Webb of Charlotte, N.C. (See related story, page 4.)

Willis writes for BSSB.

Couple with state ties will serve with CSI in East Asia

RICHMOND, Va. — Mr. and Mrs. Patrick A. Brunson have been named representatives of Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization.

The Brunsons will live in East Asia, where they will use their skills in development of CSI-related projects in developing nations of East Asia. He attended New Orleans Seminary. They are members of Lake Forest Church in New Orleans.

Born at Elgin Air Force Base, Fla., Brunson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Preston Brunson of Samson, Ala. He considers Samson his hometown.

He received a degree from Auburn (Ala.) University.

He has been director of pharmacy at Baptist Medical Center in Centre, Ala., and a pharmacist at Homer D. Cobb Memorial Hospital in Phenix City, Ala.

Born in Wichita Falls, Texas, Mrs. Brunson is the former Cynthia Zgarba, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Zgarba of Brooksville, Miss. While growing up she also lived in Meridian, Miss. The Brunsons consider Elkmont (Ala.) Church their home church.

She received degrees from

Meridian Junior College, Livingston (Ala.) University, and New Orleans Seminary.

The Brunsons have four children: Joel Scotty, born in 1981; Amanda Elizabeth, 1984; Andrew Isaac, 1989; and Thomas Patrick, 1992. The family will go to Rockville, Va., in January for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.



Patrick and Cynthia Brunson

Brotherhood announces '93 World Changers work dates

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission has announced 11 World Changers national work project dates for 1993.

A project in Puerto Rico and a junior high project also are scheduled.

World Changers is a week-long missions project for Southern Baptist youths sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission. World Changers work projects include a missions education component before the youths go to their pro-

ject locations. Once on site, they are involved in activities allowing them to experience missions firsthand.

Project dates and locations for 1993 are: Houston, Kansas City, Mo., and Millington, Tenn., June 12-19; Briceville, Tenn., and Brockton, Mont., June 26-July 3; Savannah, Ga., and Canton, N.C., July 10-17; Campbell County, Tenn., July 17-24; Tuscaloosa, Ala., July 24-31; and Eastern Shore, Va., and Clarksdale, Miss., July 31-Aug. 7.



Distinguished faculty lecturer

Sam Gore, Clinton, left, professor and head of the Department of Art at Mississippi College, has been selected as the Arts and Sciences Distinguished Faculty Lecturer for 1992. Glen Eaves, Clinton, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, is pictured presenting Gore with a plaque. Gore's lecture, entitled "Reflections on Art and Values," will be presented on Nov. 9 at 2:30 p.m. in the Hall of Fame Room of the B.C. Rogers Student Center on campus.

McGlockin takes early retirement with BSSB

Charles McGlockin's 27 and a half years as a Baptist Book Store manager has meant more to him than selling merchandise and making money. Rather, it has been his way of doing "eyeball to eyeball ministry" with thousands of people across the United States.

McGlockin, manager of Jackson's Baptist Book Store since May 1983, retired Nov. 1. He is among nearly 200 Baptist Sunday School Board employees who took the early retirement incentive offered by the agency. (See related story on page 3.) In his retirement, McGlockin has agreed to stay on at the Jackson store as a "temporary" employee until January when his replacement joins the staff. Linda Jackson, currently manager of the Shreveport, La., Baptist Book Store, has been named to manage the Jackson facility.

McGlockin, 53, began his work with Baptist Book Stores as an eighth grader. While both of his parents worked for the bookstore chain, his father, V.L. McGlockin, eventually served in Nashville as a regional director.

After earning degrees from Clarke College and the University of Southern Mississippi, the young McGlockin applied for his first managerial job, beginning his career as manager of the Golden Gate Seminary store. He also managed stores at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center,

Roanoke, Va., and Memphis, Tenn., before moving to Jackson.

While McGlockin has seen administrations, products, and procedures come and go during his years with the BSSB, one aspect of Baptist Book Store life has not changed: the opportunity to minister to people one-on-one.

"The Lord has and is using the Baptist Book Store to do ministry," McGlockin said. "We have the opportunity to touch lives in a way that a church cannot. Our ministry is eyeball to eyeball."

Explaining that the Jackson and Gulfshore stores made over 80,000 transactions last year, McGlockin remarked, "I don't know of any church that can reach as many people as these two stores."

In addition to working with customers, the Baptist Book Store also touches lives through its contributions to the Cooperative Program, McGlockin said. In 1991, for example, over \$80,000 was returned to the Mississippi Baptist Convention for church program work among churches, he noted.

"I will always treasure these years," McGlockin concluded. "It has been a wonderful blessing in my life to see lives changed through what many only see as a business."

As for retirement, McGlockin intends to support his wife Jane in her teaching career, work on their 15-acre farm near Puckett, and enjoy their three grandchildren.

Churches adopt Expanded Annuity Plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the Sept. 3 issue of the Baptist Record: Gulf Coast: Sharon; Lafayette: Union West; Lamar: Coaltown; Marion: Emmanuel; Mississippi: Calvary, Smithdale; Pontotoc: Troy; Rankin: Meadow Grove; Simpson: Siloam; Sunflower: Linn; and Walthall: Knox.

Parks tells missionaries why he's retiring: FMB has changed

By Bob Stanley

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — R. Keith Parks wrote Southern Baptists' 3,900 foreign missionaries Oct. 23 that his decision to retire now "is the Lord's will under unfortunate circumstances."

But the Foreign Mission Board president added: "I feel we are missing the best that God had for us. Southern Baptists should be marching through God's open door of opportunity as a united, loving, obedient people of God. May God forgive us and have mercy on us!"

Parks told missionaries he was writing them to clarify why he felt led to retire at 65, rather than serve until 1995 as he proposed in August 1991.

"Many of you have indicated that our reason for retiring earlier than planned is still not clear," he said.

Parks also said he is still receiving similar questions from Southern Baptists in general and from some of the board's own trustees who say they encouraged him to continue serving. He sent copies of his letter Oct. 26 to FMB trustees and staff and state Baptist executive directors and editors.

He also sent a separate letter to FMB trustees elaborating on his reasons for retiring Oct. 31, 1992, three years earlier than he originally planned.

A number of trustees, staff and others "have insisted 'nothing has changed' (at the Foreign Mission Board) and have objected to my saying there were 'philosophical differences' with them," Parks' letter to missionaries said.

Parks disagreed with that opinion, listing 10 areas in which he believes the Foreign Mission Board has changed since the "conservative resurgence." But trustee chairman John Jackson of California, responding to Parks' letter, expressed strong disagreement with its conclusions.

The letter from Parks cited:

1) Lack of appropriate representation of "a very large percentage of Bible-believing, theologically conservative Southern Baptists" on boards of trustees. "Their money is still solicited but not their representatives nor any contribution of convictions or viewpoints," Parks wrote.

2) Decisions being "increasingly shaped by ultra-conservative theological interpretations rather than tested and adopted mission principles."

3) "An atmosphere of trust and respect for differences of viewpoints has been replaced by suspicion, distrust, criticism and intimidation."

4) Freedom to disagree being "replaced by expectation of conformity." Parks added: "When issues or problems cannot be discussed honestly, they cannot be dealt with productively or solved."

5) A decline in career missionary appointments and increased emphasis on volunteers that is "bringing an imbalance overseas."

6) Some trustees "without the time, expertise, knowledge or

experience to make administrative decisions" on foreign missions "increasingly doing staff work instead of fulfilling the role of trustees."

7) More pressure on the board's news office, which serves as the Richmond (foreign) bureau of Baptist Press, "to report only 'positive' news," which Parks said threatens to "destroy the credibility of the press."

8) A new development of asking prospective staff members "for expressions of loyalty toward trustees and/or the 'conservative resurgence.'"

9) Increasing emphasis for missionary appointment on the four background statements in the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee report, instead of just the Baptist Faith and Message statement (Southern Baptists' traditional statement of faith, adopted in 1963).

10) The convention controversy atmosphere causing "many fine (missionary) candidates either to believe they cannot be appointed or to decline appointment because they are not comfortable with the present Foreign Mission Board direction."

Jackson said "trustees have the highest admiration for Dr. Parks and his ministry to Southern Baptists and the world. He has a heart for missions and desires to see the world evangelized. However, I strongly disagree with the conclusions regarding philosophical differences found in his letter."

Jackson said he has "no desire to attack Dr. Parks, but I do know the heart of trustees and feel compelled to defend them. There are always two sides to every statement. Each of us tends to view our position as correct. I am certain Dr. Parks believes his views are accurate. However, trustees would disagree on most of his allegations."

As an example, Jackson cited one statement Parks made in his letter to missionaries: "When issues or problems cannot be discussed honestly, they cannot be dealt with productively or solved." Jackson said most of the statements in Parks' letter were never discussed with trustees.

"In addition, when discussion did take place, any negative view was exploited or labeled as the controversy weaving its way into board affairs," Jackson said. "Missionaries and Southern Baptists are not told of individual disagreement within the Global Strategy Group (the FMB's top executive council). But if one trustee voices a negative opinion, it is trumpeted as if all trustees have voted."

Parks, in the letter to missionaries, said the confusion over his retirement is summed up in one question: "Why did you say it was God's will to lead until 1995 and then a few months later say it was God's will to retire in 1992?"

In August 1991 Parks revealed a vision he said God had given him for new foreign mission initiatives

to help Southern Baptists reach their Bold Mission Thrust goals. He offered his personal commitment to lead preparations up to a 1995 launch date for his "Missions 21" vision, which would extend into the 21st century.

Against the background of "incredible opportunity in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet states, I felt compelled to share with the trustees some concepts that I believed the Lord had given me," Parks wrote. "In keeping with my style of leadership I asked the staff and trustees to study, change, expand or modify these ideas."

But "the trustee subcommittee appointed to work with staff never consulted me nor sought staff input," he said. "Their report seemed designed to discredit the concepts, encourage my retirement and focus on other trustee concerns."

However, Parks said, his tenure rather than his vision became the issue in committee discussions. "It became evident that I would not be allowed to fulfill my role as president without restrictions and hindrances," he wrote.

"It was stated that '60% of the board members' would vote for me to stay," he continued. "But in board meetings in August, October, December, and April, as well as the Retreat in March (with trustees in the Dallas area), every effort to vote on affirming my leadership until 1995 was delayed or ruled out of order."

Parks said many felt this was an intentional maneuver by several trustees on the board. Other trustees who favored his continued service "never forced the issue," he said.

At the March 19-20 spiritual emphasis retreat, a joint statement by the trustees and Parks released at a concluding press conference said Parks alone made the decision to retire at the end of October. The statement said trustees affirmed Parks and repeatedly requested he continue his leadership.

But in his letter to the missionaries, Parks explained he had reason to question whether trustee support for him would last. During the retreat, Parks said, he "received a fax reporting that a prominent trustee had stated at a public meeting" before the retreat "I would be affirmed during the meeting, but would be 'on my way out' by summer. This and other developments confirmed my impression that my leadership would remain an issue continually."

At the retreat itself, he said, "the Lord impressed me that if I was not going to be affirmed to lead, then my staying would be a hindrance to missions and just a marking-of-time." He said he remained open to see how the trustees would interact, but claimed that in subsequent sessions at the retreat the trustees' questions were "inquisitorial."

Stanley is director of News and Information Office, FMB.

OTHER STATE CONVENTIONS...

S. CAROLINA BOARD APPROVES REORGANIZATION

WHITE OAK, S.C. (BP) — The South Carolina Baptist Convention's general board unanimously approved a reorganization of its staff and a \$23 million 1993 Cooperative Program budget during its semiannual meeting Oct. 12-13 at the convention's White Oak Conference Center. B. Carlisle Driggers, executive secretary-treasurer of the 85-member board and chief administrative officer of the 100-member staff, was the architect of the reorganization.

MONTANA KICKS OFF "2 X 2000" CAMPAIGN

KALISPELL, Mont. (BP) — Kicking off a special emphasis to double the number of churches by the turn of the century, Montana Southern Baptists met Oct. 7-8 in Kalispell for their 32nd annual session. Nearly 200 people, 141 registered messengers, met at Kalispell's Easthaven Church to conduct business for the Montana Southern Baptist Fellowship. But the Fellowship's energetic campaign to present the Gospel to every person in Montana and then have two percent of the state's population involved in Southern Baptist churches and missions by the turn of the century, "2 X 2000," was the focal point for the two-day meeting. Special recognition was given to W.J. "Dub" and Dorothy Hughes of Billings, retiring associational missionaries and longtime workers in the Dakotas and Montana. She has been commissioned by the Fellowship to write the history of the development of Southern Baptist work in Montana.

IOWA BAPTISTS ELECT LAYMAN, HIKE CP GIFTS 1%

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa (BP) — Iowa Baptists have elected their first layman president and increased their giving to Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program by 1%. More than 90 messengers representing Iowa's 79 Southern Baptist churches and missions approved a 1993 budget of \$1,092,567, up \$11,720 over the budget adopted for 1992. "Cooperative Program receipts have increased significantly this year," O. Wendell Jones, Iowa Baptists' executive-director, said in his address. "We are within reach of the budget again if every church continues to be consistent."

MISSOURIANS DECIDE RACE, TRY TO DEFINE FAMILY

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo. (BP) — Jackson pastor Rodney Travis received 62% of the votes in a race with director of missions Marvin Nobles for the Missouri Baptist Convention's presidency during its 158th annual session. Travis, pastor of First Church in Jackson, served as the convention's first vice president during 1992. Travis described himself as a theological conservative but a person "who likes to cooperate and work together." Travis emphasized following his election that he was not identified with any group or faction. Nobles, director of missions for Baptist Association south of St. Louis, had been openly endorsed by a conservative pastors group in the state. Missouri Baptists' Oct. 26-28 meeting in Cape Girardeau attracted more than 2,500 people to the first convention held in southeast Missouri since 1975. Messengers defeated a resolution which would have recognized the national Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Baptist Fellowship of Missouri as "separate and distinctively different from the Southern Baptist and the Missouri Baptist conventions, autonomously governed and financed." Both organizations have been identified with the moderate faction within the Southern Baptist Convention. Approved unanimously was a resolution opposing riverboat and simulcast gambling. Both issues face Missouri voters in the Nov. 3 general election.

Brotherhood trustees review year full of special ministry

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — Trustees of the Brotherhood Commission got a multimedia review of this year's crowded schedule of the agency's special ministry projects at their Oct. 23-24 meeting.

James D. Williams, Brotherhood Commission president, said the projects ranging from Central Asia to south Florida show a "radical, caring, Christian love" that must be offered before the gospel message can be accepted.

The food-distribution phase of Project Brotherhood in the Moscow area served as an ideal witnessing opportunity for volunteers and a starting point for Russian Baptist churches to magnify their outreach, according to Williams, who said lists of food recipients have become prospect lists for churches.

Dennis and Jennefer Quinn of St. Peters, Mo., who served as the first on-site Project Brotherhood coordinators in Moscow, gave their testi-

mories and were recognized along with Mississippians Sammy Platt and Larry Taylor, who followed the Quinns in Moscow, and Chuck Singletary and Bob Sloan, who operated the Project Brotherhood Information Center in Memphis.

The trustees also approved a recommendation that Challengers, a new missions education program for young men in grades 7-12, begin in October 1994.

In other action, trustees:

— approved a request of \$1,090,189 from the basic Southern Baptist Cooperative Program budget for the budget year 1993-94, representing a 10% increase over the 1992-93 allocation.

— elected new officers: Bob Hill, pastor of Calvary Church, Cleveland, Miss., chairman; Willard Finch, vice-chairman; and Donley Brown, retired military management analyst, Jefferson City, Mo., recording secretary.

Thursday, November 5, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Dobson targets Madonna book, urges boycott of Time, printer

By Art Toalston

NASHVILLE (BP) — Incensed over Madonna's controversial \$49.95 Sex coffee-table book, Morality in Media and author-broadcaster James Dobson have called for a boycott of Time Warner Inc.

Warner Books, a subsidiary of New York City-based Time Warner, is the book's publisher. More than 800,000 copies of the book — in six languages — were placed on the market Oct. 21.

Dobson also called for a boycott of the book's printer, R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company of Chicago. Donnelley, the world's largest printing company, has printed numerous books for Dobson's Focus on the Family ministry in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Donnelley also was the printer of 40,000-plus copies of this year's Southern Baptist Convention Annual and 12,000-plus copies of the SBC Book of Reports, both published by the Nashville-based SBC Executive Committee.

In addition, Donnelley does extensive business with the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, including Bible printing and other projects, and with

numerous other national publishers of religious materials.

Dobson said the Madonna book "is, without question, the most outrageous single event that has occurred in my lifetime with reference to teen-agers especially."

"This is not just some porno queen," Dobson said, noting millions of youth "imitate Madonna — she has such influence with them."

Of Donnelley, the printer, Dobson said, "We're not going to do business with them any more." Focus on the Family has relied on Donnelley for virtually all its major printing needs, he said. "But when the present agreements are over, we're through."

Morris H. Chapman, president-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, told Baptist Press, "I am shocked that Donnelley chose to print a book which so blatantly disregards the moral and spiritual welfare of the American people."

James T. Draper Jr., president of the Sunday School Board, issued a statement, noting: "We are surprised and outraged that two of our suppliers, R.R. Donnelley and Rand McNally (which owns a bindery) were involved in the pub-

lication of the pornographic book, Sex, by Madonna.

"We have been in contact with representatives from both of these companies concerning this matter. Rand McNally sent us a letter stating that they regret their involvement with this book and would not be involved in such projects in the future.

"We have received no such written communication from R.R. Donnelley.

The Madonna book is part of a civil war of values," Dobson said. It's "a tidal wave of evil — that's what we're faced with."

"Madonna is not the enemy," Dobson said. "Satan is the enemy. She is being exploited by the enemy. We need to pray for her that the truth will become evident to her. I don't hate Madonna. I don't hate Time Warner. We need to pray for them, but we also need to let our opinions be heard."

"The \$50 price tag on this obscenity leads one to conclude that Time Warner and Madonna are out to make a fast buck. The book costs less than \$8 per copy to produce," Cooper said.

Toalston writes for BP.

140 people attend International Student Conference

By Weaver McCracken

Baptist Student Unions in Mississippi hosted international students from around the state at the annual International Student Conference held at Camp Garaywa on Oct. 16-18. More than 140 internationals and Americans attended the weekend, which was designed to acquaint internationals with beliefs of the Christian faith. The internationals represented 29 different countries.

BSU students served as hosts for the weekend. They were encouraged to interact with internationals, developing relationships and responding to opportunities to share their faith. Friendships built over the weekend will facilitate continued relationships and further opportunities for witness on the campuses.

The speaker for the weekend was Nell Magee, director of student work for the New England Baptist Convention. Dennis At-

wood, minister of college and singles at University Church in Baton Rouge, provided music.

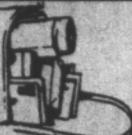
Other activities of the Conference included guided tours of the Governor's Mansion and the State Historical Museum in the Old

State Capitol in Jackson.

The Cooperative Program provides this witness opportunity to internationals.

Story and photos by associate Weaver McCracken of Student Work Department, MBCB.





Letters to the editor



More on Richardson

Editor:

Recently the Baptist Record carried a brief announcement of the retirement of James Richardson from First Church, Madison, after 11 years there. You did have the basics about the man — where he has pastored and served in the denomination. There are, however, a hundred other things that need to be said about this man.

Your article mentioned that he and Cissa have four children. Let's point out that in addition to their daughter, Vivian, who lives in Louisiana, they have three sons, all of whom are in the ministry. Jay Richardson pastors Drew Church. Gary Richardson pastors Edgewater Church in New Orleans. Ian Richardson is minister of music at Mt. Pleasant Church, Bogalusa, La.

Twenty-two years ago, when I was a struggling young pastor in Greenville, Miss., James Richard-

son recommended me to become minister of evangelism at First Church, Jackson. Just before moving to Jackson, he visited our home and said to me almost apologetically, "I hope I will not offend you, but I have bought several new suits for myself and would like to give you some of my old ones if you would like to have them." What he presented to me were seven of the prettiest suits you have ever seen. Somebody in Jackson once said that I was the best-dressed man on the staff.

That's one or two of the reasons why I have been indebted to this man for nearly a quarter of a century. Some years ago when I nominated him to be president of the state convention, and he was elected easily, several pastors said to me later, "Had I known he would have accepted the presidency of the convention, I would have nominated him for it years ago!" That's a glimpse of the kind of

esteem this man is held in by his colleagues.

I, for one, owe him more than I'll ever be able to say. My hunch is there are plenty of others out there in the same boat.

Joe McKeever
Kenner, La.

Proposes changes

Editor:

Last night, Oct. 19, Perry Association was addressed by Jeff Rimes, a former US-2 home missionary. He told us of Indiana pastors getting paid less than \$500 per month, and cities with over 20,000 people having one Southern Baptist church the size of a two-car garage. Next, we were advised of the current financial condition of the Baptist Children's Village, which was, as always, desperate. What was not said was that adding to this condition is that the Baptist Record charges the Baptist Chil-

dren's Village to publish the Memorial Giving Roll. Further, we are all aware of the vast opportunities now available to win souls in Eastern Europe and central and South America.

After hearing this, it is prudent to look at our current budget proposals, that is the Baptist Record going from \$395,435 in 1991 to \$499,261 in 1992, and a proposed amount for 1993 of \$540,320. Also, I have noticed that we have five full-time consultants for Sunday School, five for Discipleship Training, and five for the WMU. Additionally, we give back \$125,000 to the associations.

Finally, when you realize that 63% of all cooperative money given, which most Baptists expect to go to missions, never leaves Jackson, you are struck by the fact that our church government has grown too large. I firmly believe that all who read the Baptist Record, as I do, will gladly pay for this service. Also, if our association is in need of more money, we will raise this within our association. I do not ask, nor do I desire, my fellow Christian givers to subsidize my paper or association. I also believe that a candid look at our church government could result in consolidation and savings, to allow that money to go for the Great Commission.

Paul David Walley
Richton

Spirit of Clarke

Editor:

I grew up near Newton in the Midway Church community. From the time I was 6 until age 15, John F. Carter was my pastor. During those years Clarke College and Carter were almost synonymous. I learned about God from him — and about love and faith. The best way to describe the Clarke campus at the time I enrolled there is to say that the spirit of God's love just permeated that campus. And that really doesn't do justice.

The faculty gave so much of themselves to the students. They gave me something I had never experienced — they believed in me, in my ability as a student and my worth as a human being. They understood the importance of encouragement, of high expectations, and at the same time stressed discipline and academic excellence.

The students also shared that spirit of love with one another. Friendships were formed that will last a lifetime — and beyond.

Today, Christmas cannot come without the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. At Clarke, that was special, too. The image of Lowery Compere lighting that final bulb to complete the "star" is indelibly burned into the memory of hundreds of students. Many students took odd jobs in order to give.

Some gave the money they were saving to buy gifts — and over the years, not a few felt God's call to "trust Me, try Me." They gave their "going-home-for-Christmas" money. Not knowing how they would get home, they learned the joy of sacrificial giving, the peace of knowing that God would provide, and then experiencing the victory when he did.

Clarke College was special. She was more than a school. She was a special creation! Hundreds of former students feel as I do. That's why we mourn. That's why we objected to the merger and then to the closing. We realize that nothing short of a miracle can restore Clarke College. The Master may have other plans, we don't know. But we do know God still works miracles.

Joyce Simmons Johnson
Newton

Book-Link will glean direct donations from convention goers at book drop points

By Tim Nicholas

Persons attending the Mississippi Baptist Convention will have the opportunity to make direct donations to missions through Book-Link.

The organization, affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Educational Missions Fellowship, will have a book drop in front of the Baptist Building on Mississippi Street on Nov. 9 and 10.

The group mails religious books and those related to ministerial education to foreign missionaries and national pastors in approximately 56 countries.

Coordinating the book drop is Charles Holladay, former state superintendent of schools. Holladay said the types of books needed are Bibles, Bible dictionaries, Bible atlases, expository books, sermon helps, discipleship helps, and study course books.

"These should be usable books," said Holladay, "for overseas teaching situations in churches, seminars, and conventions."

He said that the organization has some money in hand for postage which is about 75 cents per lb., but that in some of the requests, a new

book needs to be purchased.

Holladay, with 45 years in education, told his friend Hal Buchanan, who heads up Book-Link, that Mississippi needed regular book drops — as does the whole SBC. He agreed to help out.

The drop will be in place Monday afternoon, Nov. 9, and Tuesday morning and afternoon.

Permanent drops will be in place at the Baptist Building and at Mississippi College in Jennings Hall. Books mailed will only be accepted at the MC drop at 200 S. Capitol, P.O. Box 4221, Clinton, MS 39058.

Brown-Davis Award winners honored in Tupelo

the presentations.

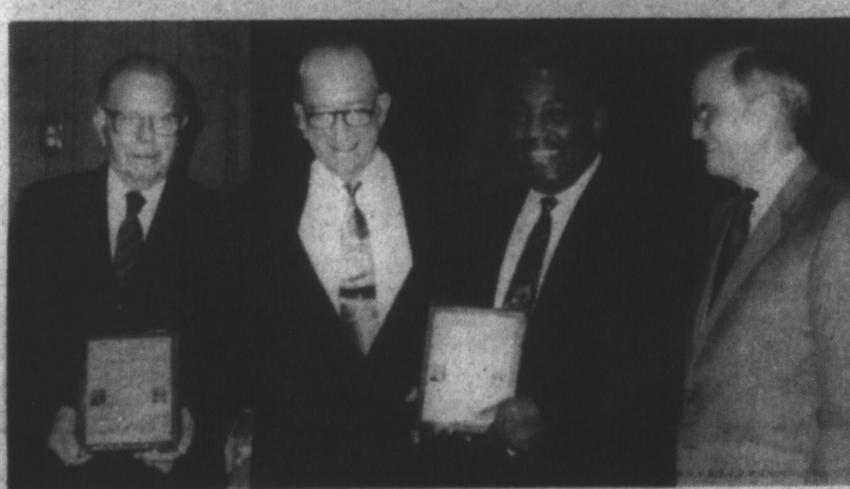
After the awards were presented, Brogan led the 125 participants in a "breaking of bread" ceremony in recognition that Jesus is the bread of life and Christ is to the spirit what bread is to the body.

McPherson is an Okolona native now serving as director of black church extension at the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. He also served as a missionary associate, youth director, assistant pastor, and pastor in a

number of California churches before joining the Southern Baptist General Convention of California as director of black church ministries in 1980. He moved to the Home Mission Board's black church relations department as a national consultant in 1984. He is a graduate of California Baptist College and Golden Gate Seminary in San Francisco.

Ford, who grew up in the Auburn community east of Tupelo, has been a teacher and dean for a combined 41 years at the Mississippi Baptist Seminary, which conducts classes in Tupelo. He has pastored eight churches and served as interim pastor in eight churches during his 52 years in the ministry. He and his wife, Dorothy, have been married for 56 years.

The award is named for Southern Baptist minister W.P. Davis of Blue Springs and National Baptist minister T.B. Brown of Brookhaven, both of whom worked as pioneers in racial reconciliation in the state from the 1950s until their deaths less than two months apart in 1989.



Nativity Conference scheduled

Various papers, relating to the broad subject of the nativity and chronology of Jesus, will be presented at the Nativity II Conference, Nov. 21 in San Francisco. The first such conference was held at Mississippi State University in Starkville in 1983.

New census documents have just been discovered demonstrating that Roman census practice was conducted in Nabatea in the early Second Century, A.D. New light on King Herod comes from new Latin and Greek documents found at Masada (14 documents in all relate to King Herod, who tried to kill Jesus; new texts relating to

other New Testament personalities also come from Masada).

The 1992 conference will also produce a memorial volume honoring Ray Summers, long time professor of New Testament at Southern and Southwestern seminaries and at Baylor University. The president, or a representative, from each participating institution will present a paper at the meeting. This limited edition is being made possible by a number of donations including the L.D. Hancock Foundation of Tupelo. For more information contact Jerry Vardaman, Box 1, Mississippi State, MS 39762 (601) 323-9198.

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BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7



Faces & Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams



It happened in Granada

One face I keep remembering — the wistful face of a young man in Granada, Spain. If I didn't hate so much to shop, I'd never have met him. I'd rather be outdoors any time looking at mountains and flowers than wearing out my feet in a department store.

Spaniards say that God, if he

loves someone, makes it possible for that person to live in Granada. A half day in it was not enough for me, but it was all I had. Lunch over, the tour guide said, "You have 45 minutes to shop before we leave." Not I.

I sat on a bench among trees in an avenue's median, facing a church. It was festival time, honoring the city's patron saint, "Our Lady of Sorrows." Stacks of flowers practically covered the front of the building. Behind me, Lola Autry was taking a picture.

I was reliving my morning visit to the Alhambra. Disappointment had been my first reaction to the squat orange-red sprawl of Moorish castle buildings that Washington Irving's storybook had made famous. The guide had walked so fast over the rough stone corridors that I could look neither left nor right, but only at my feet to keep from falling.

But then we had come to the inner courts and gardens. I was entranced at the sight of the white marble, the carved stucco, the latticework, the fountains, the pathways between tall cypress trees, the topmost of the high gardens where silvery jets of water arched over a long pool....

My mind still on the mountain-side, I was surprised when a young man sat down by me. He was slender, in short khaki pants and a short-sleeved shirt for the hot September day. His brown hair was neatly trimmed, though apparently he had not shaved his black beard for two or three days.

"What is the meaning of the flowers?" Lola asked him.

"They are to honor," he shrugged — "you know, Our Lady."

I was glad to hear him reply in English. I always feel embarrassed that I can't speak the language of a

country where I am guest, and have to expect the people to speak mine. Yet it's wonderful when they do, for then we can talk.

In fact, he was a university student majoring in languages. He explained that the majority of Spaniards are Roman Catholics but that he was among the many who are "non-practicing."

"Are you a Christian?" I asked.

"Jesus is one of our Gods...." He paused, and then rushed on: "I believe there is a God who created the earth, but how do you know that Jesus is the real God? Muslims say their God is the real God. Buddhists say their God is the real God."

"Jesus is the living God, the only living God," I told him. "Buddha and Mohammed are not alive. Do their followers claim them to be?"

"No," he admitted. And he agreed that he would like to know how he could live always.

New Testament in hand, Lola read to him the instructions on how to be born again. He listened. Tears trembled in the brown eyes behind his steel-rimmed glasses.

"Only believe?" he asked. "You don't have to DO anything? But they" — he nodded his head toward the church — "teach that you must live a good life to go to heaven." His questions continued; he wanted answers. Certainly we didn't know all the answers, but we knew we had a Book where he could find them. He said he owned a Bible, and promised to read the list of verses Lola handed him.

"I must go now to meet some friends," he said. He kissed each of us on both cheeks, and hurried down the street.

When other benches stood empty, why did that young man sit on ours? I choose to think that God sent him there.

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Just for the Record



First Church, Magnolia, recently held a recognition service in honor of its mission service groups. GAs recognized are shown above, left to right, front row, Shannon Barron, Michelle Flowers, Molly Herbert, April Monceret, Melissa Jones; second row, Amanda Byrd, Patricia Honea, Tina Monceret, Tara Rhodus, Kate Honea, and Richelle Baustian. Actees recognized are shown below: front row, Leslie Dickinson, Robin Mainieri; back row, Lori Jones, Mellonee Honea, Kristy Welch, and Holly Schilling. At left is Megan Whittington, Mission Friend.



Winston hosts extension classes starting Nov. 19

Winston Baptist Seminary Extension Center's second semester will run Nov. 19, 1992-March 11, 1993. Two courses, History of Christianity and New Testament Survey Part II, will be offered. Classes meet Thursdays at the Winston County Association office building. The first course meets 6-8 p.m.; the second course meets 8-10 p.m. Cost for each course will be \$30 plus the cost of book(s). Each course will receive two semester hours credit.

For more information call Paul Blanchard, Winston Association DOM, at 773-3366, Louisville.

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Prilgrim's Rest Church, Ethel, will have dedication on Nov. 8 at 11 a.m. for the recent renovation and bricking of the sanctuary. The speaker will be Bill Causey, executive secretary-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Lunch will be served following the 11 a.m. service.

Jones County Junior College BSU joined in "See you at the Pole" prayer service with students and faculty in praying for our nation. Larry Goff, BSU director, reported 125 students attended the first "Back to School" welcome party.

Cowan Road Church, Gulfport, will observe its 13th anniversary on Nov. 8. Sunday School will be held at 9:45 a.m. and a special service at 11 a.m. Merrick Henry, pastor, will be the speaker. Lunch will be served at noon.

The Duncan Sisters will be in concert at First Church, Rose Hill, Jasper County, on Nov. 8 at 6 p.m. Keith Bogan is pastor.

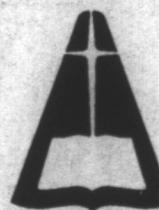
Homecomings

Horseshoe, Tchula: Nov. 8; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Olyn Roberts, Louisville, guest speaker; dinner following worship service; Robert Futral Jr., pastor.

Westside, Bruce: Nov. 8; services begin at 10:30 a.m.; covered dish lunch to follow; Buford Usry, pastor.

First, Lauderdale: Nov. 8; James Rawlings, Meridian, guest speaker; Tom Harrison, Meridian, music; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish luncheon following worship services; Mike Russell, pastor.

Bogue Chitto (Lincoln): Nov. 8; 107th anniversary; Randy & Janice Carruth, special music, 1:30 p.m.; regular service times; Keith Wallace, pastor.



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GAs at Lexie Church, Tylertown, were recently recognized at a Mission Adventure banquet. Those receiving awards following the meal are shown above, left to right: Amanda Hill, Aaron Conerly, Jennifer Conerly, Cassie Hillburn, Karena Conerly, Kim Conerly, Patti Hill, Jade Brock, and Kamie Dillon. In the back row are GA leaders Lorey Alford and Bonnie Dunnam.

Luther Rice alumni meet Nov. 10

The Mississippi Alumni Association of Luther Rice Seminary will meet Nov. 10 at 5 p.m. at Western Sizzlin' on I-55 North, Jackson. The meeting, in conjunction with the Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting, will feature Steven Bennett, pastor of Colonial

Hills Church, Southaven. Other items on the agenda include election of officers and an update on the seminary.

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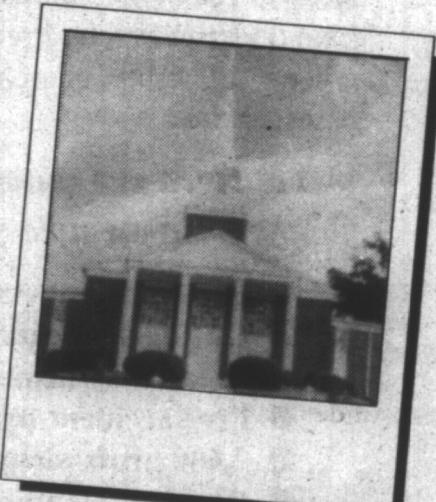
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Staff changes

Thursday, November 5, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Dean Register has accepted the call as pastor to Temple Church, Hattiesburg, effective Dec. 6. He goes to Temple Church from First Church, Gulfport. He was born in Florida and grew up in Georgia. Register received a bachelor of arts degree at Val-

dosta State College and did graduate work at New Orleans Seminary where he earned the master of divinity and the doctor of theology degrees.

Shoreline Park, Bay St. Louis, has called Talmadge Rayborn as pastor, effective Oct. 1. A native of Sumrall, he received his education at Mississippi State University and William Carey College. His previous places of service were Pass

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Joey Shorter has joined the staff of First Church, Columbus, as minister of education. He is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and Southwestern Seminary. He goes to First Church from the staff of Mississippi University for Women.

Thomas D. Miller has accepted the position of pastor at Eastlawn Church, Pascagoula, as of Aug. 9. He was formerly pastor of Southside Church, Lucedale. He is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary with a master of religious education degree and is also currently

serving as vice-president of the Florida Baptist College Alumni for Mississippi.

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Names in the News



Mrs. Lathon Bray, a member of New Liberty Church, Glen, has 34 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School. Her husband is pastor of New Liberty. She is pictured above with Greg Kennedy, assistant Sunday School director.



First Church, Bay St. Louis, recognized Margaret DeHaan Sept. 27 for completing 25 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School. Ed Deuschie is pastor.

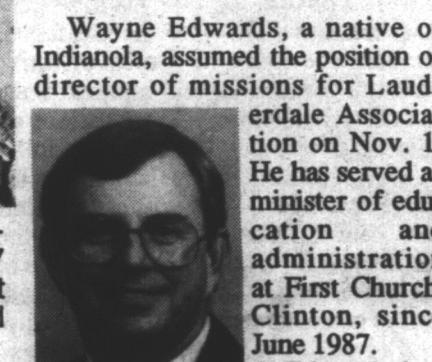
Revival Dates

First, Flowood: Nov. 8-11; Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; Discipleship Training, 5 p.m.; worship, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jim Ray, pastor, Bunker Hill, Columbia, evangelist; G.R. (Ricky) Gray, pastor.



The Mississippi College School of Education awarded the Kappa Delta Pi Ann Wilson Clark Memorial Scholarship to Tracy Lynn Brannon (center) of Meridian. On hand for the presentation were Rachel T. Peebles (left) of Madison, instructor of education; and Alan O'Dell of Clinton, associate dean of the School of Education. (MC photo)

Edwards is new Lauderdale DOM



Edwards

Wayne Edwards, a native of Indianola, assumed the position of director of missions for Lauderdale Association on Nov. 1. He has served as minister of education and administration at First Church, Clinton, since June 1987.

Edwards is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He is a special worker for the Convention Board with the Sunday School and Discipleship Training departments.

Edwards and his wife, Patti, have two children, Scott, 13, and Elizabeth, 9.



The adult choir of Gillsburg Church, Oskyka, recently honored Hilda Blount on her 55th consecutive year as organist/pianist. Ken Adams, music director, presented her with a plaque and flowers. Paul Pearson is pastor.

Renee Scheidt will appear in concert at West Ellisville Church, Ellisville, on Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. Call 477-9989 for more information.

Bernard Ebbers was honored Oct. 24 by Mississippi College with the "Alumnus of the Year" award for 1992. A 1967 graduate, received his award from the National Alumni Association during its annual alumni luncheon on campus.

The Brotherhood Commission has named Timothy Craig Seanor, 36, as national Royal Ambassador director. He succeeds Karl Bozeman, who retired May 31. Seanor will be responsible for promoting and directing the national RA program.



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Life and Work

Faithful to Christ's purpose



By Milton Burd
2 Timothy 2:1-3, 8-10, 14-15, 24-26

All of us recall those experiences with a pesky, persistent fly or mosquito. They never give up. They continue to attack until the battle is ended with a fly swatter or bug spray. Their persistence is well known. Paul continually encouraged Timothy in his first letter to teach the gospel faithfully and reinforced his encouragement in this lesson from 2 Timothy 2. Paul used several examples of steadfast (persistent) service to encourage Timothy. He wrote about a soldier, an athlete, a farmer, a workman, a house (vessel), and a servant. All of these are examples of faithful service. But Paul also instructed Timothy to begin to prepare others to teach. Let's look at our scripture passage.

Exhortation to faithfulness (vv. 1-3). Paul challenged Timothy to remain strong and faithful in his work of the Gospel. But he also added, "in the grace that is in Christ Jesus," which indicates the source for strength. Timothy was to continue to depend on that grace. It not only saves but provides strength.

Paul was very persistent in his challenge to Timothy to remain faithful. This was uppermost in his letters to him. But now in verse 2, Paul moves progressively forward. He requested Timothy to entrust these truths to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. Paul knew that Timothy needed help. Sharing the gospel is not a one man job. It has been entrusted to many through the years. Timothy was to become an equiper in addition to pastor/teacher.

The reason for faithfulness (vv. 8-10). "Remember Jesus Christ!" This was the command from Paul to Timothy. Remember that Christ was descended from David, that he was resurrected from the dead. He was human and divine. He was God incarnate. Christ was the perfect example of steadfast, sacrificial service.

Paul explained that even though he was suffering and chained like a criminal, the Word of God was not chained. God's Word is at work in the world to work in the lives of people. You may chain the messenger, but the message will never be subdued. So Paul did not wallow in self pity. He found great joy and satisfaction in knowing God's redemptive work would continue.

Paul gave the reason for his own steadfast endurance. It was for the sake of the elect, that they may obtain salvation. Everyone is elected to be saved, and Paul knew that even in his suffering that others were being saved.

A basis for God's approval (vv. 14-15). Paul's great concern about false teachers and their potential for harm was uppermost in his mind when he told Timothy to keep reminding them (the elect) of these things. Do not become involved in quarrels over words. It will be nonproductive and confusing. Do not be combative with the false teachers or within the fellowship. Instead, Timothy was to present himself to God as an approved workman who did not need to be ashamed. "Do your best" conveys the meaning of diligence and persistence in doing God's work. An approved worker correctly handles the word of truth. The false teachers cannot be approved because they mishandle the truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 is one of the well-known verses in the Bible. We need to let these words speak to us today as we do our best to be approved workers.

The attitude of the faithful (vv. 24-25). Paul implied that the Lord's servants must also have an attitude that will undergird steadfast service. Do not quarrel; be kind to everyone. Do not be resentful or carry a grudge. Instead, cultivate the ability to gently teach others. How often have we learned this lesson the hard way?

A potential result of faithfulness (vv. 25b-26). A gentle attitude toward others may result in leading them to a knowledge of the truth. Leading others to repentance becomes the goal of steadfast service. Repentance leads persons to discover saving grace in Christ Jesus. We are called to the same goal today. We can serve steadfastly so that others may find the truth in Christ. What a great privilege we have in serving Christ!

Burd is minister of education, First Church, Cleveland.

Uniform

You are held accountable



By Margaret H. Rogers
Amos 2:6-3:2

The name Amos means "burden" or "sustained." Amos is called the prophet of righteousness. He was a herdsman and a pruner of sycamore trees from the small town of Tekoa, 12 miles south of Jerusalem. He was not a man of the court like Isaiah, nor was he of priestly lineage like Jeremiah.

Though Amos lived in Judah, he was sent to announce God's judgment on the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Amos prophesied during the reigns of King Uzziah and King Jeroboam II about 760-750 B.C. This period in Israel's history was marked by peace and prosperity, but it was also accompanied by an almost unprecedented degree of social corruption. Therefore, Amos' theme was that social justice is an indispensable expression of true piety. Amos was a vigorous spokesman for God's justice and righteousness, and he condemned those who became rich and powerful at the expense of others.

Amos points out Israel's sins (Amos 2:6-8). Amos' inaugural sermon in chapters one and two is a remarkable prophetic utterance. He delivered that sermon with the skill of a master orator. One wonders how many days and nights this lonely shepherd spent with God in the preparation of the message. Amos' message is a striking example of the most effective ways to preach to a hostile audience. He captured their attention by denouncing sins of the surrounding nations and pronouncing God's wrath on those nations. Then he followed with a pronouncement of doom upon Israel. The crowd was alert to every word until he began to pour forth judgment of Yahweh upon Israel for their sins. Amos told them that the rich grew richer and the poor, poorer. The courts were corrupt, and gross immorality prevailed in the homes and in the land. Amos, accustomed to the simple life, was disgusted with the pampered lives of the rich and the irreverence of their worship.

Amos reminds Israel of God's blessings (vv. 9-12). God had made room for Israel to occupy Canaan as he had given Israel victory over the inhabitants of Canaan. Amos told Israel of how even the giants of the land, the Amorites, had been overcome by God's power. God had led his people out of bondage from Egypt and sustained them through the 40 years of wilderness wanderings. God had called certain young men as Nazarites and prophets. Although the Nazarites had taken vows of purity for their lives, they were influenced to denounce those vows. Even the prophets were commanded not to prophesy.

God's punishment is promised (3:1-2). It is no wonder God upbraided Israel at their response to all the spiritual privileges they enjoyed as a holy nation. It was an honor that they had children of their own to be God's messengers to them. God charged them with abuse of all the means of grace they enjoyed. The children of Israel would not regard the words God had spoken to them, and they must hear the words of reproof. All the favors God had bestowed could not exempt them from the punishment for their sins. Amos explained to the nation that the reason for their punishment was their complete misunderstanding of the nature of true religion. Israel thought that religion and social morality were separate matters; however, God's expectation was love and faithfulness to him, sincerity of heart, and justice to others.

Amos was a dedicated prophet who spoke out against the evils of his day. He knew what God's response was to their hypocritical worship. Religion and social morality are inseparable. A man must love both God and his fellowman. Was this not the emphasis of Jesus later to his followers? The wrath of God is never vindictive. All divine justice is an expression of God's love, and its purpose is redemptive.

This study of Amos should be a reminder to Christians of God's blessing and the ensuing responsibility to show love to him and to show justice to a needy, sinful world.

Rogers is a member of Salem Church, Collins.

"I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good thing, therefore, that I can do or any kindness I can show to any fellow human being let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

— Stephen Grellet

Bible Book

Victory through the Spirit



By R. David Raddin
Romans 8:1-4, 14-17, 22-23, 28-31

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death" (vv. 1-2). Through Jesus we are offered victory over life and over death. The victory comes to all who believe in him as Lord and Savior.

The Spirit makes us free (8:1-4). What a statement of freedom: New life in Christ delivers the believer from the old life of sin and death. The bondage of sin as the law of life brings condemnation from God. To live without sin is impossible, as all have sinned. Thanks be to God that he "commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). The law of the Spirit of life comes by God's matchless grace that enables sinners like you and me to find life in Christ.

"For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit" (vv. 3-4). Our sin keeps us from the righteousness required by the law. Jesus came as a man, yet did not sin. He chose to live his life as the only acceptable sacrifice for our sins. Through Jesus, and only through him, we can have eternal life and live according to the Spirit.

The Spirit witnesses that we are God's children (8:14-17). "For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, Abba, Father" (v. 15). J.W. McGorman, in *Romans: Everyman's Gospel*, points out three aspects of sonship. The first is the test of sonship: "All who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God" (v. 14). Being a child of God is evidenced by being daily led by the Spirit of God.

The second aspect is the privilege of sonship. The right to call God "Abba, Father" is a privilege that is given by the Father to his children. "Abba" is an intimate term used by a Jewish boy for his father. The word reminds us of the personal relationship Jesus has with those who believe in him.

The third aspect is the assurance of sonship: "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children" (v. 16). As children we are heirs. Paul emphasizes sharing in Christ's suffering. His intent is to show the suffering that comes as a result of following Christ.

The Spirit assures us that victory will come (8:22-23). God's creation "groans" with pain in the present world. Paul writes of the circumstances in which Christians live. In the trials of life, we "groan" as we "wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies" (v. 23). God's Spirit assures us that victory WILL come.

Confidence in God's purpose (8:28-30). "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (v. 28). God works for good even in the midst of bad circumstances. When life is hard, God works to bring good out of hard times. McGorman says, "Evil and tragedy are real in the world, and sometimes God's people suffer crushing sorrow. We must refrain from attributing to the 'will of God' that which is not true of God's revelation of him! God is not responsible for terrible crimes, sinful men are. Yet God's love and resources are so great that he can overrule in the tragedies we suffer. Whether sorrow and tears, or joys and laughter, he can work through them all to make us increasingly like Jesus Christ. And that is what God's grace is all about" (*Romans: Everyman's Gospel*, p. 103).

Be careful to understand that these verses do not say that God works for the good of all people but "of those who love him." God does not take the rejection of himself and sin lightly. "The wages of sin is death..." says Romans 6:23, "but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord." We need to hear and accept his gift.

Victory! (8:31). "What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?" God won the ultimate victory over sin and death through the cross. God gives us victory as we give ourselves to him as Lord and live in personal relationship to Christ.

Raddin is pastor, First Church, Yazoo City.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director



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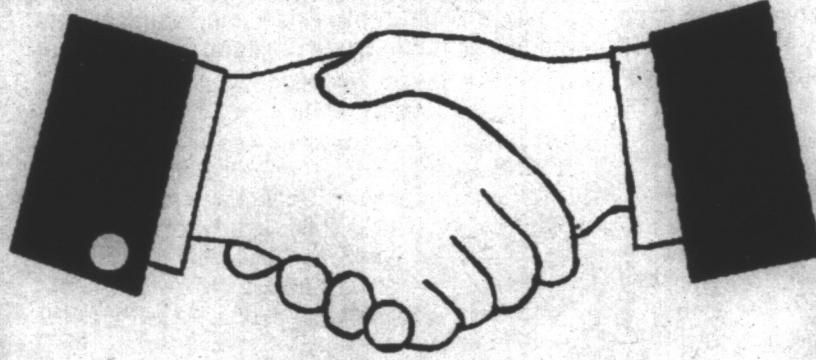


Thank You!

For the first time in several years we have not only met, but exceeded our BACK TO SCHOOL goal. The goal for 1992 was \$85,000. We received \$91,333.21. It would not have been possible without your generosity — Thank you!

The Baptist Children's Village received 37 invitations to 1992 Fall Associational Meetings. Thanks to each of you for allowing us time on your program to share each year new things that God is doing in our midst. Thank you.

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

**Sept. 1, 1992 -
Sept. 30, 1992**

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CHILDREN'S PAGE



Pen Pal Club

Hi!

My name is Kelli Salers. I go to Edinburg School and am in the 6th grade. I go to Remus Baptist Church. I live in Carthage, Miss. My hobbies are reading, playing baseball, and horseback riding. If you would like to be my pen pal, here's my address:

Rt. 8, Box 161-C
Carthage, MS 39051

Hi,

My name is Ginny Wolf. I am 10 years old. My hobbies are reading, swimming, writing letters, and shopping. I would like to have a pen pal. My address is:

Rt. 1, Box 167-A
Forest, MS 39074.



This is a Thanksgiving Day picture. Try to find the following items hidden in the picture: an ax, an ear of corn, a turkey, a wooden spoon, a kettle, a duck, a tepee, a pumpkin, an apple, and an Indian.



"Love in any Language" was the theme of a recent GA recognition service held at Easthaven Church, Brookhaven. Participating in the service were, from left: front row, Lindsey Holmes, Jenny Hill, Kayla Allen, Emily Williamson, Anna Lee Etheridge, Lindy Salyer,

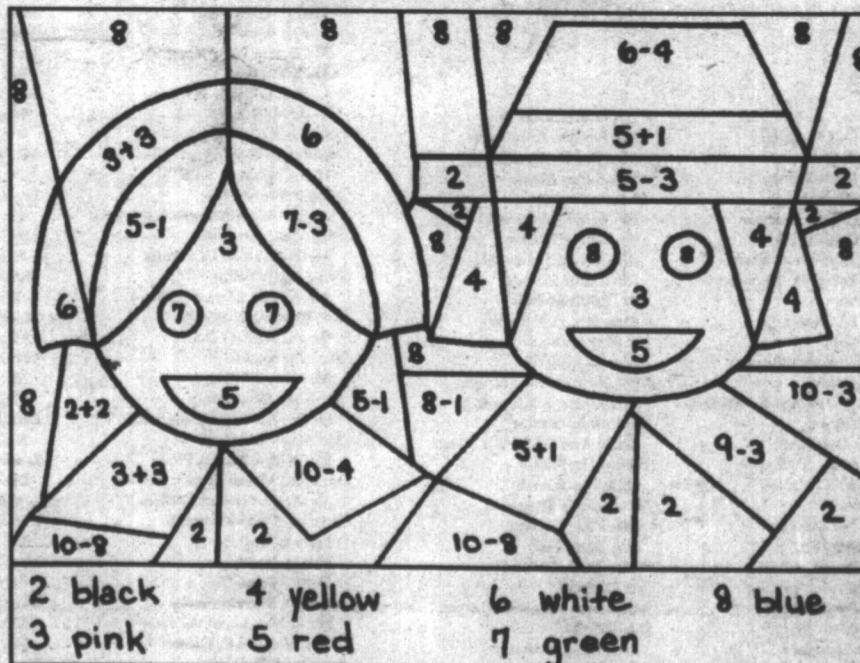
Lori Amos; back row, Lori Beth Salyer, Jenny Westbrook, Kelly Jones, Nakiskia Nash, Crissy Rutledge, Amanda Westbrook, Ana Case, Monica Pitts, Lacey Holmes, and Erin Lyons. Bendon Ginn is pastor.



The Kids Praise Kampers of Van Winkle Church, Jackson, presented "Psalty's Missing 9, The Secret of How to Grow in the Lord," under the direction of Benita Johnsey this summer. There were 60 children

enrolled in the week-long camp. Directors were Lance Fendley and Carolyn Stringer. Mike Burcynski is pastor.

Pilgrims to Color



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